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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Despite the recent arrests and exiling of Communist elements in El Salvador, the Communist Party and the Communist-controlled Comite de Reorganizacion Obrera Sindical (CROS) remain potent forces in the political and labor life of the country. Of the Party members exiled, only Antonio Diaz and Luis Felipe Vativo are considered key figures in Communist activities; thus the main body of Communist intellectuals and labor agitators remains relatively intact and can be expected to resume subversive work when the government relaxes its present restrictive measures. None of the thirty-six syndicates controlled by the CROS has been fatally hurt by the happenings of the past ten days. A plan for holding clandestine meetings is already being developed by several of these labor groups.

2. The number of CROS members now held in custody by the authorities, in addition to those exiled, is reported to be about thirty. Two of the most active and competent labor organizers, Salvador C. Carpio and Miguel Marmol, are in hiding and in all probability will remain inactive for several weeks. Two members of the intellectual faction of the Communist Party, Gilberto Lara and Marcos Tulio Payes, are convinced that the atmosphere created by the suspension of constitutional guarantees will benefit the Party. They feel that the necessity for carrying out operations in a clandestine manner will result in more effective penetration and control of the labor movement.

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